

# CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**Governing Board Agenda**

**Meeting Date:** July 28, 2009

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Item Title</u>	<u>Responsible Agents</u>
	Faculty Emeritus Distinction Rio Salado College	Dr. Rufus Glasper Dr. Linda Thor

**Recommendation**

In accordance with the Governing Board Policy it is recommended that the Governing Board award Faculty Emeritus Distinction to:

Beatriz Cohen, Counselor  
Laura Helminski, Faculty - English

**Justification**

**Beatriz Cohen** has a very distinguished career as Faculty Chair for Counseling Services at Rio Salado College that has been of direct benefit to students, that has contributed significantly to her field, and that has been innovative and creative. Her career began with working with re-entry students, and then when Rio Salado was located inside Westridge Mall (75th Avenue and Thomas), she developed the Women’s Center. She also provided in-person counseling at the Paradise Valley Mall (Cactus and Tatum) location. However, as Rio expanded its alternative delivery formats to include online, Bea did the same with counseling services, implementing online counseling using the Electronic Forum and what was then FirstClass. She developed the Rio Salado Counseling web-page and Career Center, along with the first online CPD course (Conflict Resolution in the Workplace). Beatriz has served twice as Rio Faculty President and is a recipient of the “Rio Salado College Faculty Homer Sarasohn Award.” Homer Sarasohn was one of the fathers of the Quality Movement in the 1950’s and while Edwards Deming received most of the credit and fame, Sarasohn was the one who first brought quality concepts to Japan. The Rio Faculty make this award annually in the name of Homer Sarasohn to an “unsung hero,” a colleague who has quietly, but effectively worked behind the scenes. Beatriz was recognized with this award for launching the Rio Salado Diversity initiative that has now had a long standing history of special events and well-attended brown bag luncheons. Beatriz was also honored as Rio Salado’s Woman of Distinction by the Women’s Leadership Group. In addition to Chairing Diversity Education at Rio, Beatriz has served as Chair for the Counseling Instructional Council and is a recipient of the Diversity Council Award.

**Laura Helminski** has taught Communication, Reading, and English courses at the community college level since 1977, distance learning courses since 1987, and internet Communication and Reading courses since 1996. Laura’s service to the college has been on many levels, starting with Faculty Chair for Communication and Reading; Co-Chair of the Student Learning Outcomes Team since 1990; Co-Chair of two past Accreditation Self Studies and current Accreditation Self Study Co-Chair; a Learning Organization trainer and facilitator; a Continuous Quality Improvement trainer and facilitator; a past Faculty Senate President; and a Faculty Development and Staff Development Coordinator for 15 years. At the district level Laura has served on, and chaired, the Reading and the Communication Instructional Councils, and the District Student Academic Achievement and Assessment Committee. In addition, she has served on the District Curriculum Committee and on the Sustainability Network.

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<u>Funding</u>	<u>Approvals/Certifications</u>
<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p><u>Account Identification:</u></p>	<p>Chancellor _____</p> <p>Academic &amp; Student Affairs _____</p> <p>Business Services _____</p> <p>Human Resources _____</p> <p>Res. Dev. &amp; Com. Relations _____</p> <p>College President _____</p>

Laura has worked with educators in many states on the topics of changing organizational cultures and increasing student achievement. She has extensive training and research in Systems Thinking, Learning Organizations, and Continuous Quality Improvement theory and applications. Laura has facilitated numerous faculty development sessions and has given presentations across the state and country on organizational change in higher education. She has served on the national executive team for the Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) organization since 2005. She was Rio Salado College's Faculty of the Year for 1991-92 and Innovator of the Year in 1988. She was awarded the Association of Community College Trustees' Western Region William H. Meardy Faculty Award for 2003. This regional award is presented to a full-time instructor of an ACCT member two-year postsecondary institution who demonstrates excellence in teaching, innovation, college service on a local and regional level, and demonstrated leadership in solving challenges to postsecondary education.